

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
March 30, 2009

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. WORK SESSION

1. Mansfield Board of Education

Members of the Mansfield Board of Education Present: Dudley Hamlin, Mary Feathers, Martha Kelly, Christopher Kueffner, Mark LaPlaca, Shamim Patwa and Superintendent Fred Baruzzi

Superintendent Baruzzi outlined the approved Board of Education budget reviewing the areas being reduced, the impacts on services, and anticipated additional state revenues. He noted that the use of the anticipated funds has yet to be delineated.

Members of the Council asked the Board of Education to consider a number of suggested scenarios including an additional reduction to the budget of \$186, 850; further reductions, approximately \$443,000, to bring the overall Town approved budget to a 0 mil increase; impact statements endorsed by the Board of Education indicating their tolerance level and the impact of an across the board wage freeze for all personnel.

The Council thanked the Board of Education for all their work and cooperation.

2. General Fund Revenues

Flag – Review the current status of state support for the Pilot-Holinko Estates revenue item. (Pg. 43)

Flag – Review the purpose of the Judicial Revenue Distribution revenue item. (Pg. 43)

3. Additional Cost Reduction Scenarios & Impacts

Comptroller Cherie Trahan distributed and reviewed the following: a handout comparing the Town's expenditures for general legal counsel to other similarly sized towns, showing Mansfield's cost to be significantly lower; an itemization of the cost of overtime part time and temporary workers, and an itemization of the revenues and expenditures of the Housing Code program. As requested by the Council, a worksheet showing department head reduction options was also distributed for discussion purposes.

Flag - Itemization of energy savings to date will be provided.

Flag - Based on the current services budget, a calculation of savings realized as a result of a wage freeze at Region 19 will be provided.

Flag - The effect of a reduction to the Mansfield/UCONN transport (area agency contribution) will be identified.

Flag - Additional Town Council direction and guidance will be needed regarding potential changes to the public safety requirements of the Town.

Flag – A review of whether the anticipated cost of overtime could, in some situations, be better spent on the hiring of part time personnel will be conducted.

4. General Discussion/Council Questions

Flag - Council members will discuss specific recommendations to the Board of Education at the April 6th Town Council meeting.

Flag - Additional information regarding Council members' discussions to date should be provided to the public at the April 2nd Information session.

Flag - Information regarding the pay back period for the remaining projects on the Siemens list will be provided.

5. Opportunity for Public to Address the Council

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, stated that he doesn't understand the purpose of reducing the volunteer incentives in the budget. He also discouraged reducing the area agency contributions.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked the status of a wellness coordinator for the Town and questioned the number of librarians necessary to run the library.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, asked for clarification on the Mansfield/UCONN transport and on whether or not there are nursery schools in the elementary schools.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, referred to an e-mail he sent to all Council members and asked that they endorse his suggestion to cut 10% of the wages of all employees making over \$50,000 per year. Mr. Hossack also volunteered to tape the April 2nd Informational Session.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

